

# **The Bill of Rights vs. the Ballot Box: Constitutional Implications of Anti-Gay Ballot Initiatives**

On March 12, 1994, the Ohio State University College of Law's Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual Law Caucus hosted seven noted speakers to address a pressing and timely issue, the constitutionality of anti-gay ballot initiatives which have sprung up around the country. These initiatives are referenda sponsored by citizen groups seeking to prevent homosexuals from gaining legal protection from discrimination by forbidding state legislatures from enacting any such laws. The gay and lesbian community charges that these restrictions infringe upon not only their right to equal protection of the law, but also their access to the government which is protected by the Constitution. Compiled in this volume of the *Ohio State Law Journal* are the articles and commentary presented at the Symposium.

The speakers attending the conference were: Rhonda R. Rivera, a professor at the Ohio State University College of Law; Matthew Coles, an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union in San Francisco; Suzanne B. Goldberg, an attorney with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York; Mark E. Wojcik, an assistant professor at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago; William E. Adams, an assistant professor and Director of the Civil Law Clinic at NOVA Southeastern University in Florida; Marc A. Fajer, an assistant professor at the University of Miami Law School in Florida; and Scott Greenwood, Vice President of the ACLU in Ohio and General Counsel to the ACLU in Cincinnati. The works collected in this volume have evolved from the circulation of the speakers' transcripts and the article of David A.J. Richards, a professor at the New York University School of Law, who was unable to attend the conference.

The *Law Journal* recognizes that the Symposium advocates one position exclusively. We anticipate that it will stir much debate and further scholarship. In an effort to promote this discussion, we invite the initiatives' supporters to submit articles to the *Law Journal* for consideration.

